

Message Text

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PM:RSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, KE, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

1. BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY ANTHONY REEVE CALLED FEBRUARY 20 ON AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE TO DISCUSS OUR REQUEST MADE IN LONDON FOR COPY OF BRITISH STUDY OF KENYA'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND GENERALLY TO REVIEW U.S./U.K. COORDINATION ON SUPPLY-ING KENYA'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE FINANCING ON WHETHER WE WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION,COOTE SAID THAT WE WERE IN PROCESS OF SEEKING NECESSARY PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS TO WAIVE DOLS. 40 MILLION AFRICAN CEILING TO ENABLE US TO PROVIDE FMS CREDIT ASSISTANCE, AS REQUESTED BY KENYANS. HE ADDED THAT WE HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT SIZE OF PROGRAM, BUT IT WOULD BE MODEST. COOTE SAID THAT IN THEIR APPROACH TO US THE KENYANS HAD MENTIONED PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS AND WE ARE AT PRESENT EXPLORING THE AVAIL-ABILITY, PRICES AND LEAD TIMES OF THESE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT.

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3. REEVE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF OUR EFFORTS TO COORDINATE WITH HMG ON KENYAN REQUEST. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY WILLING TO RELEASE THE REPORT OR A RUNDOWN OF IT TO US BUT THAT UK HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NAIROBI FELT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO SEEK THE CONCURRENCE OF THE KENYANS BEFORE DOING SO. COOTE SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER APPROACHED GOK ON THIS MATTER HE SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS IT WITH AMBASSADOR MARSHALL. REEVE AGREED AND ASSUMED THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE IN ANY CASE. COOTE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT IN ANY APPROACH TO KENYANS UK HIGH COMMISSIONER SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE FALSE IMPRESSION TO KENYANS THAT WE WERE THINKING OF EXTENSIVE AID PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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